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U.S.-Egypt arms talks slammed

TEL AVIV, April 4 (AFP). — Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon today called in the United States Charge d'Affaires in Israel Thomas Denny, to warn him of Israel's categorical objection to any sale of U.S. arms to Egypt. Israeli political sources recalled that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat had said he hoped, during his current talks in Washington with President Jimmy Carter, to obtain U.S. consent to large sales of arms and especially aircraft to Egypt. For the time being, political sources here said, Israeli opposition to any such deal remained "discreet" and on a "diplomatic" level. So far the Israeli leaders do not believe that the U.S. envisaged any such sales without much more careful study of the possible consequences, these sources said.

Finland devalues currency

HELSINKI, April 4 (AFP). — Finland today announced the devaluation of its currency, the Finnish mark, by 5.7 per cent, following similar moves by other Nordic Nations. The Central Bank, in a statement after a government meeting, said the devaluation will come into force tomorrow. The Central Bank also said that foreign currency trading, which was suspended this morning, would be resumed tomorrow. The other Nordic countries -- Sweden, Norway and Denmark -- devalued their currencies on Friday. The devaluations were of 3 per cent for the Norwegian and Danish crowns and 6 per cent for the Swedish one.

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Husseini: Israel has no leader ready for peace

MAN (JNA). — "I am sure there is not even one leader in Israel which is now ready to make peace on the basis of withdrawal from the occupied lands," His Majesty King Hussein said, addressing members of the Higher Committee for Occupied Lands during his meeting at Royal Court here, Monday noon.

His Majesty, presiding over meeting, explained to the committee members the present situation in the Arab world, concentrating on the developments in the Middle East, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem. His Majesty reviewed past efforts put forward, both Arab and international, for ending the present stalemate, listing the presently available options and alternatives. Arab efforts are facing a crisis and will always be the Arab cause against danger, His Majesty said, adding that our strength, our unity and increasing toll of our rights, which are now being recognized by the international group, are our only hope, he said.

Prince Hassan returns home

MAN (JNA). — His Highness Prince Hassan and Highness Princess Sarvath returned here Monday evening at the end of an eight-day official visit to Holland and Austria. The visit was at the invitation of the Dutch government and of Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky, during which Crown Prince Hassan had talks on the Middle East situation and on bilateral relations between Jordan and Holland and Austria.

Cyprus talks resume

NNA, April 4 (Agencies). — Cypriot inter-community talks resumed today with discussion of the island's territorial question.

The talks were suspended on Monday to allow the two sides to prepare counter-proposals on partition and constitutional problems.

Today Greek-Cypriot negotiator Tassos Papadopoulos and Turkish-Cypriot negotiator Umuleyman Onan were studying the Turkish-Cypriot reaction to the Greek-Cypriot proposal, which is understood to be about 20 per cent of the island to the Turkish-Cypriots. At present, the Turkish-Cypriots control about 30 per cent of the island.

Turkish-Cypriots make up 18 per cent of the Cypriot population.

Mr. Papadopoulos told reporters today that tomorrow morning he was ready to resume discussion of the constitutional question "even if Mr. Onan does not yet have constructive proposals to supply in reply to territorial proposals."

2 Arab villages strike against Israeli actions

TEL AVIV, April 4 (R). — Two Israeli Arab villages closed their shops today and labourers stayed away from work in a one-day protest strike against police handling of demonstrations there last week.

Villagers in Baqa Al Gharbiya and Jatt in central Israel called the strike yesterday to protest against what they said was police brutality in breaking up a demonstration by schoolchildren on March 30.

The children had burnt tyres and put up roadblocks to mark the "Day of the Land" -- the first anniversary of popular uprisings against requisitioning of Arab land by Israeli authorities.

While strikes and quiet demonstrations in other Arab towns and villages were tightly supervised by squads of Israeli officials, children in the two villages yesterday set up roadblocks of burning tyres before being dispersed by border police. The villages yesterday called for a parliamentary inquiry into



UNOFFICIAL CHAT -- President Anwar Sadat of Egypt (left) chats with U.S. President Jimmy Carter after arrival ceremonies for the Egyptian leader on the North Portico of the White House in Washington, D.C., Monday. (AP wirephoto).

Sadat asks Carter to help create Palestinian state

As prerequisite for Mideast peace

WASHINGTON, April 4 (R). — Egyptian President Anwar Sadat personally asked President Carter today to help bring about a Palestinian state as a condition for peace in the Middle East.

"It is the crux of the matter," the Egyptian leader said when he arrived at the White House for two days of talks with Mr. Carter.

"No progress whatsoever can be achieved while that problem remains unresolved," President Carter did not refer to any specific problem in the Arab-Israeli conflict at a White House welcoming ceremony for President Sadat.

But he said he was prepared to spend all the time necessary to achieve progress this year towards a just and permanent settlement.

President Sadat is the first Arab leader to visit Washington since Mr. Carter took office in January.

His White House talks are part of a series President Carter is holding with Middle East leaders in an effort to revive the 1973 Geneva peace talks.

The Egyptian leader introduced the Palestinian issue when he recalled that Mr. Carter had recently mentioned the need for a Palestinian "homeland," although he did not specify where it should be created and what form it should take.

After saying that the Palestinian problem was the crux of the Middle East crisis, President Sadat declared: "What is needed is the establishment of a political entity where the Palestinians can be... a community of citizens, not a group of refugees."

President Sadat, who said he had come to Washington with an open mind, also pressed Egypt's demands for all Arab territory captured during the 1967 Middle East war.

He said he did not feel that anyone could support the occupation of another's territory in a policy of "territorial expansion."

President Sadat spoke of eventual harmony between Arabs and Israelis, saying the Arab nation had a long history of tolerance and cooperation with others and harboured no ill feeling, prejudice or hatred towards any other people.

The Egyptian leader, who previously announced he would seek American arms including F-5 fighters, also drew on President Carter's human rights campaign for support of his case against Israeli occupation of Arab territory.

He said he endorsed President Carter's statements that human rights would be the pillar of American foreign policy and hoped to see it implemented in the Middle East.

President Carter told the Egyptian leader that there were no easy answers for the Middle East conflict. But he was offering his good offices to try to bring the antagonists together, in the hope that 1977 would provide a breakthrough to

Sadat tells Le Monde: USSR's plots in Africa worry me

PARIS, April 4 (R). — Egyptian President Anwar Sadat said in an interview published here today he was extremely concerned about what he called the Soviet Union's "sinister plots" in Africa.

"I am very, very worried about the way events are shaping in Africa, particularly in Zaire," he told the French newspaper Le Monde. "The Soviets are dabbling in sinister plots from one end of the continent to the other."

The Egyptian leader went on: "In Sudan, they have tried to overthrow the regime of Gen. Nimeiri, who has had to put up with an uprising fomented by thousands of guerrillas armed by (Libyan leader) Col. Qadhafi... Ethiopia, which has become a major centre of Soviet plotting, is one of the recipients of lavish Libyan money and Russian arms."

President Sadat added: "As regards the civil war in Zaire, this evidently is not an internal matter. The Katangese are armed with modern Soviet tanks, namely T-54 and T-55, which are as effective as the American M-60 tanks... the situation is critical. I wonder where they will strike next."

When asked by Le Monde's correspondent Eric Rouleau whether he was referring to Egypt, President Sadat replied: "Yes, because the Soviet have already begun creating troubles in our country. But I am thinking especially of Sudan, where any upheaval is likely to have repercussions in Egypt. We would be directly involved, since we are linked with a common defence pact."

The Egyptian President said he welcomed the normalisation of France's relations with Israel.

"We are happy to see a normalisation between these two countries which should be beneficial to the cause of peace," he said. "France's attitude regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict, and particularly the Palestinians' participation in a Geneva peace conference, has not changed," he said.

Arafat arrives in Moscow

MOSCOW, April 4 (AFP). — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived here today at the head of a PLO delegation, Tass news agency reported.

He described the Moscow visit as "particularly important" and added that Soviet support for the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people's fight "leads us to believe that this visit will be a success not only on the Palestinian question but equally on Arab affairs."

(Reports from Beirut today, quoting Palestinian sources, said that Mr. Arafat may have talks in Moscow with Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, who arrived in the Soviet capital from

Left seems to regain initiative in fierce south Lebanon battle

BEIRUT, April 4 (Agencies). — Lebanese leftist and Palestinian forces today appeared to have regained the initiative in southern Lebanon, close to the Israeli border, where fierce fighting has been raging around the towns of Taybeh and Marjayoun.

Reports here from leftist sources said that Taybeh and the neighbouring hill-top, which until five days ago was in rightwing hands, had now fallen to Palestinian leftist troops. Rightwing sources refused to confirm or deny the claim.

Taybeh is about 3 kms. from the southern Lebanese border with Israel and appeared to have changed hands repeatedly in the last few days of fighting. Palestinian sources here said that an Israeli military aircraft had flown over Taybeh. Bitter fighting was going on in the area between Taybeh and the border town of Qle'a, the rightwing headquarters in the frontier zone, these sources said.

Meanwhile another battle was raging for control of Marjayoun, some 55 kms. south of here and some 12 kms. from the Israeli border, leftist sources here said. Marjayoun is just north of Qle'a.

The military barracks, south of the actual town, which were held by rightwing forces until now, were said to be in flames these sources reported.

Reports reaching here suggested that the Palestinian-leftist forces had finally managed to break the rightwing grip on the area. Following the fall of Taybeh, the nearby town of Bint Jbeil was previously heavily threatened by the rightist troops.

Fighting in southern Lebanon has continued despite last November's ceasefire which ended the civil war in other parts of the country.

Observers here said that clear Israeli backing for the rightists was aimed at establishing a security belt along the northern border of the Israeli state.

Reuter correspondent Nazih Mustafa reported after a tour of the Taybeh area that a number of Palestinian commandos had actually fought their way into the centre of Taybeh.

Earlier, the news agency Wafa reported the recapture of the village in a five-hour midnight-to-dawn battle. Wafa said the commandos had inflicted "heavy losses in life and material" on their adversaries.

Mr. Bechir Gemayel, commander of Lebanon's rightwing militias, told reporters in Beirut he had no information on the situation in Taybeh.

Elsewhere, Wafa reported that Palestinian and leftist strongholds at Amn and at Beaufort Castle had come under artillery attack from Israeli positions at Misgav Am and Al Manara.

Reports from Tel Aviv today quoted an official Israeli spokesman as saying that Israeli batteries had fired across the Lebanese border after an Israeli "settlement" at Misgav Am had been shelled from Beaufort Castle.

According to travellers the vital road from Sidon to Bint Jbeil also came under Israeli shellfire for the third day running in an apparent attempt to cut supply for the Palestinians.

The deterioration of the situation in southern Lebanon was at the centre of meetings today between President Elias Sarkis and several visitors to the Presidential Palace -- among them south Lebanon parliamentarian Kazem Al Khali.

Mr. Al Khali told newsmen later that President Sarkis was making every effort to bring an end to the fighting and to improve what he said was "a bad situation" in the south.

Meanwhile Egyptian, Lebanese and Palestinian sources have now denied an allegation yesterday from the leader of the rightwing national Liberal Party Camille Chamoun who said that 700 men of the Palestinian Ayn Jallout Brigade had arrived by sea from Egypt to back up the Palestinian forces fighting in the south.

The independent Beirut newspaper Al Nahar suggested today there was a direct link between increased Israeli support for the Lebanese rightists in

Despite Vance's failure in Moscow Carter: We'll press on for less atomic weapons

WASHINGTON, April 4 (R). — President Carter has pledged the United States will continue to press for "a drastic reduction in atomic weapons" despite the failure of Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's first talks with Soviet leaders.

He spoke after being briefed by Mr. Vance yesterday on the outcome of his Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT) in Moscow last week.

The secretary of state told reporters he could not rule out an American miscalculation as having caused the breakdown in the Kremlin negotiations.

"No one can say they never make miscalculations," Mr. Vance acknowledged in response to a question as he emerged from the White House briefing with the president.

This charge has been gathering strength in Washington after Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko assailed the U.S. attitude at an unprecedented news conference only hours after Mr. Vance had left Moscow last Thursday. His attack touched off a wave of criticism of the Carter administration in the Soviet press.

Asked for his comments on the Soviet accusation that the American stand at the Moscow talks was unfair, Mr. Vance said:

"I would hope that upon reflection they would see that it is not (unfair). We believe it is a very fair proposal," he said.

The United States has adopted a conciliatory and low-



AFTER BRIEFING -- U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance (left) stands with President Jimmy Carter in the garden of the White House Sunday as he comments to reporters on his trip to the Soviet Union. Mr. Vance had just finished briefing Mr. Carter on results of the talks. (AP photograph).

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A pleasant sight

The past four weeks of economic discussions in Geneva, sponsored by UNCTAD, have broken up with the apparent failure of the world's rich and poor countries to come to agreement on a commodities common fund. In fact, things are not so bleak. Housewives and businessmen will not weep over their breakfasts throughout the world because of the failure of the talks in Geneva, as these talks lack that dramatic edge that evokes tears or cheers. The talks will resume later this year, where progress is likely to be made. This is because there have been several encouraging signs from the industrialised nations. Most important of these are the new consensus among EEC nations that the principle of a common fund is now accepted, and the recent announcement that the U.S. is willing to consider membership in international commodity agreements designed to stabilise prices of both commodity producers and the major importing nations of the industrialised states. The American gesture coincided with a pledge by the Carter administration that it would add another \$900 million to make a total U.S. contribution of \$2.4 billion to the International Development Agency, the soft-loan arm of the World Bank that is having its lending resources raised from \$4.5 billion to \$7.6 billion over the next three years.

A similar note of progress is the growing European acceptance of a West German plan to stabilise the export earnings of commodity producers. The Germans accept that price stabilisation through a common fund may work for some commodities, but they have also come up with an interesting plan that calls for compensatory credits for a developing country whose combined dollar earnings, from the export of any of a list of some 25 commodities, drop below a predetermined base level. The credits would be lent out through the World Bank.

The fact emerges that progress is being made, slowly and on different fronts, but it is being made nevertheless. While the UNCTAD talks are now the focus of action on commodity earnings stabilisation, the north-south dialogue in Paris, which is scheduled to close with a flourish in May, will see parallel action on what is called the new international economic order. In fact, what we see happening is that mechanisms are being proposed and discussed that will do nothing more than bring some order into areas where chaos was allowed to prevail, usually to the detriment of the developing nations. It is a pleasant thing to see the mechanisms of the new international economic order being worked out with a sense of realism and understanding on both sides.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Two Jordanian dailies commented in their Monday editorials on President Sadat's current visit to the United States and wondered about its outcome and the effects it would have on future events in the region.

AL DUSTOUR, under the heading "The Arabs' vanguard in Washington" wondered about the kind of welcome President Sadat would get by the U.S., which constitutes a party with its own defined position on the Middle East crisis and the Egyptian President representing another party also with a defined and known position.

President Sadat, the paper added, believes that 1977 will be the "year for peace" or the "year for peace decisions." By this statement, the Egyptian president is waging, in public and without ambiguity, on the U.S. role in the conflict. The latest American hint of Washington's acceptance of the necessity for a "homeland for the Palestinians" could be considered an encouraging factor in support of President Sadat's wager, had it not been for the recent U.S. stand in the United Nations considered a bit more cautious than necessary.

What is required, the paper added, is to restore the "Palestinians' homeland" and not just find "a homeland for the Palestinians." The Arab countries are able to provide the Palestinians with the latter if their problem is to be considered under the category of "refugees", but the nucleus of the Palestinian problem is that they are not refugees. The Arab and Palestinian struggle is being

conducted to restore the Palestinians' homeland.

We are still waiting to see what kind of welcome President Sadat will receive in the U.S., the paper concluded, and we hope that the alleged good intentions of the U.S. are not just a means of infiltrating Egypt's economic crisis.

AL SHA'B, discussing the same subject said that the Egyptian president's visit to the United States assumes a special importance in that it constitutes the first meeting between the Arabs and the new U.S. administration. It will also determine and shape the future of the Middle East and delineate U.S.-Arab future relations.

The meeting, the paper added, will determine the framework of discussions which other Arab leaders are to conduct with the new U.S. administration at a later stage during visits they will make to Washington to sound out the new U.S. administration on its Middle East policies.

The results of the various U.S.-Arab talks will also be determined as they will be complementary to those started by President Sadat. The U.S. will be put to the test as to its intentions and seriousness in seeking a peace settlement.

The United States has an essential role to play in bringing about the success of international peace efforts, a role which it has not played so far. It is probable that President Sadat's affirmation that 1977 would be the year of peace is based on his optimism that the U.S. would assume its serious role this year.

1977 could also be decisive for future U.S.-Arab relations besides being the year for peace decisions over the Middle East conflict.

After a period of stability Zaire again faces the threat of war

In the 1960s the African state of Zaire, then called the Congo, was torn apart by civil war. Today, after a period of stability, this vast country again faces the threat of war. Secessionists from the old province of Katanga (now renamed Shaba) have invaded the country from neighbouring Angola, where they have been in exile. In Kivu province rebels led by leftist Antoine Gizenga are also active and may link up with the Katangans. This article reports on the forces opposing President Mobutu Sese Seko.

LONDON, (Gemini) — With the positive identification of the invaders of Shaba province in Zaire as Katangans and the prospects of a merger between the group and rebels of the northeast province of Kivu, another civil war now looms over Zaire.

The question is whether or not the Mobutu regime has the capability to withstand such a war if initiatives for an agreement currently underway fail.

The Katangans are remnants of the gendarmerie formed by Moise Tshombe at the outbreak of the Congo (Zaire) civil war in 1960 — a war Tshombe precipitated when he declared the secession of the mineral rich province of Katanga from the Congo.

The Kivu rebels (often known as the Simbas or Fodelico) are followers of the late Patrice Lumumba, Congo's first prime minister.

Lumumba was captured and murdered by Moise Tshombe, while attempting to escape from a supposedly neutralising coup, staged by General Mobutu, then Commander of the Congo army, to put an end to the power struggle between the prime minister and President Joseph Kasavubu.

Cyrille Adoula was appointed interim prime minister by the United Nations after the death of Lumumba, but in 1964 Mr. Mobutu installed Mr. Tshombe in his place and in effect ended the Katanga secession.

This led to the revolt in Stanleyville (now Kisangani) by Lumumba's Marxist supporters led by Antoine Gizenga. The rebels were crushed by that Katanga gendarmes and the Congolese army backed by western forces sent to rescue European hostages in Stanleyville.

But the Tshombe-Kasavubu partnership did not last. In 1965 Mobutu finally seized power. The fall of Tshombe led to the dispersal of the Katanga gendarmes. Some fled to Angola, then under Portuguese rule, some to Zambia, and others were integrated into the Congolese army.

In 1967, the Katangans, led by a white mercenary, Belgian Colonel Jean Schramme, invaded and briefly occupied Kisangani and Bukavu until their expulsion by the Congolese army. That same year Gizenga escaped and fled to Moscow, but his Simba guerrillas have been active in the Kivu province ever since.

In January last year Gizenga claimed in Geneva that his organisation was in control of the province. He spoke of his determination to bring down Mobutu's regime.

Asked why he was bent on getting rid of Mobutu he replied: "We hate him because he is nothing but a usurper, a pest who has ruined our beautiful land... Mobutu has to go, though there is no need to 'thunder' him, just 'retire' him to one of his beautiful Swiss villas."

On the other front, the Katangans reorganised and were reinforced by new recruits from Zaire exiles after Angola's independence. During the Angolan civil war they were trained by the Cubans and helped the MPLA to victory over FNLA in the north and Cabinda.

Although the Katangans are believed to have been ideologically influenced by the MPLA, their primary concern is with the Kivu rebels has never been ruled out.

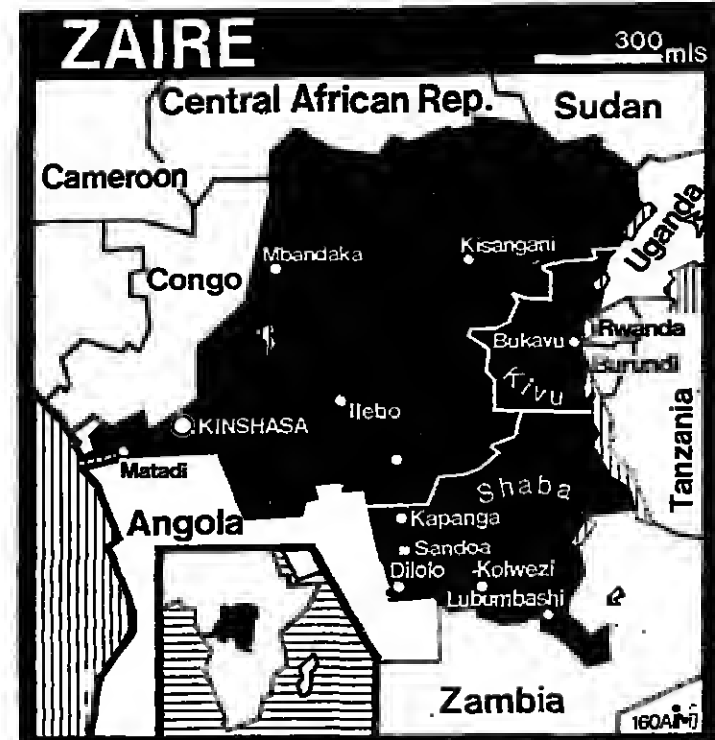
They were bitter opponents during the Congo civil war but both groups now have a common objective — to bring down Mobutu's regime. Indeed Antoine Gizenga, in an impromptu press conference in Geneva recently, expressed the hope that his men, whom he claimed were now marching towards Kisangani, would "link up" with the Katangans. Some experts say talks between the groups have already begun in Paris and Brussels where spokesmen live in exile. Jean Tshombe, son of Moise Tshombe who lives in exile in Madrid, declared his willingness for such a movement.

Since the invasion of Shaba, Zaire's principal source of wealth, with its cobalt, gold and copper, many Zaire soldiers of Katangan origin are reported to have joined the invaders and there has been recruiting among the local population.

The people of Shaba have long considered themselves unfairly treated in the distribution of income by the Zaire government.

The exact size of the invading force is not yet known. Reports vary from 500 to 5000. Obviously the Katangans

are receiving logistic support from the MPLA government in Angola but there are indications that the group's principal backers are in Europe.



Surprisingly, perhaps, Zaire has not accused the Soviet Union of involvement. Observers believe that this must have been one of the outcomes of the visit to Moscow late last December by Zaire's Commissioner for Trade, Duga Kugbetor.

troops will be involved in the Rhodesian conflict much less than Zaire.

Taking into consideration, however the apparent determination of the groups anxious to get rid of the Mobutu regime, it is difficult to see how it can succeed.

MANILA, (WFS) — The strife-torn southern Philippines are now looking forward to April 17th when, as President Marcos has announced, a new referendum as part of a sudden initiative to bring peace to the troubled region by the establishment of an autonomous Muslim state will be held.

On March 28th, four days after Mrs. Marcos concluded talks with the Libyan leader, Colonel Qadhafi, President Marcos issued a proclamation declaring the setting up of provisional regional governments for the 13 southern provinces concerned in the troubles between Christians and Muslims.

The proclamation came directly after a meeting of the National Security Council in Manila and President Marcos described the move as a "major step towards bringing peace."

Although there has been scant coverage of the troubles, some reports say that as many as 10,000 people have died in the past five years in the struggle for autonomy. Muslim, under the banner of the Moro National Liberation Front, have been claiming major concessions, in the way of self-determination, from the Philippines' Christian majority.

President Marcos says he will soon be announcing appointees to the regional governments.

Indeed, the two sides had drawn up a 16-point plan last December for bringing autonomous government to the 13 southern provinces by April, following a series of official signing ceremonies in Jeddah and Manila.

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Dr. Soares walks a narrow line to keep Portugal from slipping back into authoritarianism

Dr. Mario Soares, Portugal's middle-of-the-road socialist prime minister, has just finished a two-week tour of European capitals to put Portugal's case for joining the EEC. The man who beat the communists in a passionate European and he hopes to enlist the help of the Common Market in his efforts to cure the country's ailing economy. Can he save Portugal from slipping back into authoritarianism? Mario Soares, the pragmatist, walks a tightrope between the left and right.

LISBON, (Gemini) — Things are quieter now in Lisbon than at any time since the "coup of the carnations" that ended 42 years of dictatorship in the spring of 1974. The posters are peeling from the walls, the graffiti is fading and after more than two years of street demonstrations and political turmoil it's back to work as usual.

That, at any rate, is what socialist premier Dr. Mario Soares is trying to tell his people. "The period of reckless extravagance," he says, exhausted the nation's reserves, cut its production and brought it to the brink of economic disaster. Now it is time to pay the bill. Four years of hard work and sacrifice are essential if Portugal is not to slip back into authoritarian rule.

It is not a popular message. Convinced that a period of belt-tightening is the only way to end the crisis, the socialists have devalued the escudo, cut imports and imposed a regime of austerity which is far from what the Portuguese people had in mind in those first heady days of freedom.

But if this was a bitter decision for Mario Soares to make, it does not show. His socialism is based, not on the doctrinaire Marxism that guides the communists but simply on gut reaction against the misery imposed on the people by the dictatorship and a determination to give them what he believes they most desire, free-

dom from authoritarianism and a maximum degree of material comfort.

He is a passionate European, too, and bitterly opposed Salazar's policy of maintaining Portugal as a poor and backward country, closed to foreign investment and excluded from the European family. This sense of rebellion was passed on to him by his father.



Both spoke out against the regime and were arrested and imprisoned several times by Salazar's hated political police, the PIDE. In 1970 Mario finally left the country and took up a teaching post in Paris.

Soon after his triumphant return to take up the leadership of the socialists, Dr. Soares found himself locked in a

struggle with the communists. He over-burdened by the responsibility. He clearly enjoys his job, secure in the belief that his policies, however unpopular, have no alternative democracy is to survive.

Dr. Soares has won generous praise for his energy, courage, and more recently the political skills which have steered his minority government between the communists and the right wing, he believes, has opened the right wing parties to turn to a more open and vigorous form of market economy.

So far, he has insisted governing alone, to the chagrin of the social democrats PP, PSD, the second largest party whose programme differs little from his present policies. He acid attacks by their leader, Carmeiro, have been bitter resented by Dr. Soares. There is an antagonism between them that would make operation difficult.

In fact, and much to the ironic amusement of the communists, Dr. Soares gets better with the right wing, who agree entirely with his practical attempts to turn the economy to rights.

In a current joke, Dr. Soares easily beats the conservative leader in a bicycle race. Isn't fair," his rival gapes. He struggles to the finish post. "I can only use the right pedal, but you can pedal the left and the right."

How long Mario Soares keeps up this delicate balance act is anybody's guess. I think chance and missed while a comeback by the right wing would be hard to stage soon after the overthrow of a dictatorship.

But with rising prices beginning to bite, the real danger comes from a popular campaign of protest against the cost of living — perhaps the most ringing of all the prime minister's present worries. However, if he may feel about Portugal's long term future he is not able to relax for so considerable time yet.

Filipino Muslims get speedy new peace initiative

After two months stagnation, a new peace initiative is underway in the southern Philippines to establish an autonomous Muslim state.

MANILA, (WFS) — The strife-torn southern Philippines are now looking forward to April 17th when, as President Marcos has announced, a new referendum as part of a sudden initiative to bring peace to the troubled region by the establishment of an autonomous Muslim state will be held.

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The idea immediately angered the MNLF leaders, who threatened to pull out altogether from the 16-point agreement and once again take up arms.

Of the 13 provinces proposed, only five contain a clear overall majority of Muslims and so it seemed possible that the size of the autonomous Muslim region would be reduced by such a referendum.

The referendum has so far been twice postponed by President Marcos and now this latest initiative carries the situation one stage further.

President Marcos' proclamation makes three points. He describes the provisional regional governments for the 13 provinces as "commission-type bodies" and he says that they will exercise such powers as the president might direct.

Secondly, he makes it clear that preparations will begin for elections to the regional governments to replace the provisional bodies and, thirdly, he announced preparations for a referendum. But it is not clear just what question he will put to the electorate should this referendum fare better than the last two.

The latest talks between Mrs. Marcos and Colonel Qadhafi resulted in agreement on a referendum being held to decide what type of "administrative arrangements" should be made by the regional governments. It is not clear whether this referendum and the one referred to by President Marcos are one

and the same thing, and there is no elaboration of what exactly is meant by "administrative arrangements".

Since the 16-point agreement was made in December last year, a ceasefire has been in operation in the south. There have also been intensive propaganda campaigns waged by both sides in the dispute aimed at winning votes should a referendum be held.

One of the stumbling blocks since the first agreement was made has been the interpretation of the concept of an autonomous region within the sovereignty of the Philippines.

The original 16-point agreement makes provision for Muslim control of the judicial system in the south, Muslim control of southern financial institutions, as well as schools and universities. It also makes provision for Muslim representation on official bodies in the central government in Manila.

However, there is as yet no clear indication of how the security forces in the south will be made up, and how they will be administered.

Despite the official description of the latest agreement between Mrs. Marcos and Colonel Qadhafi as a "breakthrough", and the optimism expressed by President Marcos for the success of his sudden moves towards implementing the agreement, observers believe that there is sufficient reason for the measures to be rejected not only by the southern Muslims but also by the Christians in the area.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 5 & 6	8:30 Arabic series
6:00 Quran	9:20 Reportage
6:05 Cartoons	Channel 6
6:30 Swiss family	7:30 News in Hebrew
Robinson	7:45 Varieties
8:00 News in Arabic	8:30 Physics
	9:20 Rich man, poor man
Channel 3	10:00 News in English
7:30 Arts and hobbies	10:15 Quest

RADIO JORDAN

(On 886 KEZZ)	18:00 Concert hour
7:00 Morning melodies	18:00 Old favourites
7:30 News	18:30 Easy listening
7:40 News reports	17:00 Mail bag
8:00 Sign off	17:45 Pop session
12:00 Pop session	18:00 News summary
13:00 News summary	18:05 Arabs in history
13:05 Pop session	18:30 Sing it again
14:00 News	19:10 News reports
14:10 Radio magazine	19:20 Sign off
14:30 Special feature	19:00 News

EMERGENCIES

Doctors:	Jabal Luveldah (22662)
Amman:	Fawzi (25024)
Issa Abu Halder (38123)	Lubna (44944)
Thayser Saadi (25922)	
Irbid:	
Omar Qadawi (3515)	Sadoun
Zarqa:	
Mustapha Fayyad (83031)	
Pharmacies:	
Amman:	Talal (25021)
	Tower (21028)
	Khayam (41541)
Sukkar (25041)	Nahda (21091)

AMMAN AIRPORT

Arrivals:	00:30 Rome (Alitalia)
Bangkok, Bahrain	
Dubai, Abu Dhabi	
Beirut	
Aleppo, Damascus	
Kuwait (KAC)	8:40 Beirut (MEA)
Muscat, Abu Dhabi	10:30 Cairo
Doha (GA)	10:30 Jeddah
Amman (SAA)	11:00 Geneva, Brussels, Amsterdam
Jeddah	12:00 Athens (GAA)
Cairo	12:45 Athens (SAA)
London	12:45 Bahrain, Bangkok
Paris, Rome	18:00 Abu Dhabi, Karachi
Copenhagen, Frankfurt	21:00 Doha, Muscat
Madrid, Athens	22:25 Dubai (Alitalia)
Amsterdam, Athens	01:15 Beirut (MEA)
(KLM)	
Beirut (MEA)	

BBC RADIO

06:00 News: 24 hours	15:00 Radio Newsweek
06:30 Sarah Ward	15:15 Outlook: News Summary
06:45 The World Today	16:00 News: Commentary
06:50 News: Press Review	16:15 The Toff on the Farm
06:55 Folk and Country	16:45 The World Today
07:00 News: 24 hours	17:00 News
07:20 Sarah Ward	17:05 Books and Writers
07:45 The Energy of God	17:20 Take Out
08:00 News	17:45 Sports Round-up
08:15 Short Story	18:00 News: News about Britain
08:30 Composer and Inter-	18:15 Radio Newsweek
preter	18:20 Outlook: News Summary
09:00 News: U.K. Press Review	18:42 Stock Market Report
The World Today	19:45 One Piano, Four Hands
Financial News	20:00 News: 24 hours
Look Ahead	20:30 The Pleasure of Your
11:00 News: News about Britain	21:00 Business and Industry
11:15 A Muslim Remembers	21:15 Usar77
11:30 Sports International	21:30 Farming World
12:00 Radio Newsweek	22:00 News: The World To-
12:15 The Pleasure of Your	day
12:45 Sports Round-up	22:25 Financial News
13:00 News: 24 hours	22:45 Sports Round-up
13:30 Sir Noel Coward	23:00 News: Commentary
14:15 Report on Religion	23:15 Nature Notebook
14:30 Talkabout	

VOICE OF AMERICA

GMT	18:00 Special English. News Feature: Science News Summary
03:00 The Breakfast Show to 03:30, 04:00, 05:00 and 06:00	
06:30 Regional and Topical Reports: O.A. Current News Summary, 03:30, 04:30 and 05:30 GMT	18:30 New Music USA
An informal presentation of popular music with feature reports and interviews, were to listeners' questions, Science Digest, News Roundup, Sports, Actualities, Opinion, Analysis, News Summary	19:00 News Roundup, Report to Actualities, Opinion, Analysis, News Roundup, Sports, Actualities, Opinion, Analysis, News Summary
17:00 Summary Dateline	20:00 Special English. News Feature: Science News Summary
	21:00 News Roundup, Report to Actualities, Opinion, Analysis, News Roundup, Sports, Actualities, Opinion, Analysis, News Summary
	22:00 News Roundup, Report to Actualities, Opinion, Analysis, News Roundup, Sports, Actualities, Opinion, Analysis, News Summary
	23:00 News Roundup, Report to Actualities, Opinion, Analysis, News Roundup, Sports, Actualities, Opinion, Analysis, News Summary
	24:00 News Roundup, Report to Actualities, Opinion, Analysis, News Roundup, Sports, Actualities, Opinion, Analysis, News Summary

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Ambulance (government)	Tel. 75111
Civil defence teams	23801-4
Fire headquarters	22800
First aid, fire, police	19
Municipal water services (emergency)	34321-2
Police headquarters (emergency)	37111-3
Najdah, writing patrol rescue police, (English spoken) 24 hours a day for emergency help	21111, 9777

Cultural Centres

American Centre (USIS)	Tel. 41220
British Council	36147-6
French Cultural Centre	37000
Goethe Institute	41263
Soviet Cultural Centre	42888
Amman Municipal Library	36111

جورنال صحت انجمن

OAS head tells Jordan Times Arab-Latin American ties to increase

Secretary General of the Organisation of American States, Mr. Alejandro Orfila, leaves Amman today after a five-day visit in which he consulted with His Majesty King Hussein. Little is known about Arab-Latin American relations, but with two states in this region in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) -- Venezuela and Ecuador -- and the huge number of Arabs living in Latin America, these relations are obviously of great importance.

By Lisa Gress
(Special to the Jordan Times)

Urban and the Arab World to increase economic co-operation with Latin American states, as well as engage in ventures and exchange of ideas.

It is what came out of the Organisation of American States (OAS) held with Hussein Saturday.

So discussed were the ex-clusion of Arab diplomatic representation in Latin American states and the possibility of countries joining the OAS -- as Egypt did a month ago.

Speaking to the Jordan Times, Mr. Orfila said that Latin American countries interested in having a "dialogue" with the Arab countries at increasing economic co-operation with the Arab people.

The dialogue should be similar to the one the Arabs are having with Europe and, he stressed, since such dialogue will give both sides opportunity of knowing one another better and organising mutually advantageous ventures.

Orfila stated that he discussed the possibility of such dialogue with Secretary General of the Arab League, Mr. Riad, who has agreed to work on the first stage of an idea.

Moreover, Mr. Orfila said the OAS is not only interested in economic and financial co-operation with the Arabs, but also in social and cultural co-operation, millions of Arabs live and work in Latin American countries like Argentina, Chile, Mexico and Brazil.

Moreover, the Organisation is urging the Arab states to join the OAS as observers, especially since Egypt was admitted very recently as an observer.

Orfila stressed that the countries, with their financial potential, can work with Latin Americans in production of commercial goods. The Arabs have already invested great amounts of

capital in Brazil and Venezuela to establish financial institutions.

Economic co-operation exists with OPEC, since two Latin American countries -- Venezuela and Ecuador -- are OPEC members. Possibly more countries will join, Mr. Orfila added.

On the North-South dialogue, Mr. Orfila said that the OAS member-states are very interested in seeing it continue and succeed -- especially since Venezuela is co-chairman.



Mr. Alejandro Orfila.

"I am sure that the United States, as the most developed country, feels that the success of the dialogue would promote understanding among the countries of the world and better co-operation and distribution of wealth, and hence peace and understanding among nations", Mr. Orfila said.

NATIONAL NOTES

* AMMAN. — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable of good wishes to the chairman of Hungary's Presidential Council on the occasion of the anniversary of his country's independence.

* AMMAN. — Amman Municipality, in cooperation with the Public Security Department, has launched a campaign to reduce the number of stray dogs here.

* AMMAN. — Minister of Finance Mohammad Dabbas Monday decided to extend until June 30 the period during which citizens can pay the television tax without being liable to a fine, while exempting those who settle past dues before July 1977.

* AMMAN. — Minister of Supply Marwan Al Kassem issued a defence order Monday fixing the price of fresh meat imported by the ministry to JD 1 per kilo sold to consumers and 900 fils per kilo sold to butchers, effective April 7.

* AMMAN. — Minister of Culture and Youth Sharif Fawwaz Sharaf Monday distributed 6,000 books to 26 public, school and military libraries on the occasion of national book week.

* AMMAN. — The higher council of the Arab Engineers Union starts three days of meetings here Wednesday at the Professional Association building.

* AMMAN. — Jordan is attending a seminar of Arab-American university presidents, which started three days of meetings in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, to discuss co-operation between Arab and American universities.

As to the chances of peace in the Middle East, Mr. Orfila said that the OAS member-states are following the developments in the area with the sincere hope that a solution can be found, which is acceptable to all parties concerned.

Asked whether Latin American countries may yield to Zionist pressure, Mr. Orfila stated: "I imagine that all interested groups try to exercise whatever influence they can in pursuing their own objectives; but the Latin American countries know themselves well enough, and have very well-defined political aims and objectives for their people and will never accept pressures or influences which are not in accordance with their own political institutions and objectives."

On the discussions he held in Jordan, Mr. Orfila said that he had succeeded in making initial contacts, which he hoped would be followed by concrete co-operation.

"His Majesty King Hussein is not only the King of Jordan, but a very well-known and likeable person who has earned the respect of everybody. I found His Majesty very understanding and willing to co-operate with the OAS member-states", Mr. Orfila stated, adding a personal touch to what he had to say.

Mr. Orfila has also visited Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and described the talks he had with Arab leaders as particularly encouraging for initiating an Arab-Latin American dialogue and co-operation in the economic and cultural fields.

Once back to America, Mr. Orfila will report on the results of his visit to the OAS Council, which is composed of the 26 ambassadors representing the member-states.

As for Jordan, Mr. Orfila said that he will coordinate efforts with the Jordanian ambassador in Washington and start implementing plans for co-operation between the OAS and Jordan.



The first weekly Boeing 720B from Karachi arrives at Amman airport Sunday. Although only 80 passengers out of a capacity 124 were on board, it was given a rousing welcome by Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, which will share the route with the Pakistani airline from May 1.

Karachi, Paris flights inaugurated here

AMMAN (JNA). — Two Boeing airliners of the Pakistan International Airline (PIA) and Air France arrived here Sunday, linking Amman with Karachi and Paris.

The Director General of the Department of Civil Aviation, Mr. Sharif Ghazi Rakan, said the inauguration of the two lines in a single day underlines the open skies policy pursued by Jordan to encourage international air companies to open new links with Jordan.

The arrival of the PIA plane came after the signing of an agreement between the Pakis-

tani company and Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline, under which PIA runs a weekly flight to Karachi via Abu Dhabi. Alia will act as PIA's representative for ticket sales in Jordan, in addition to providing maintenance facilities for its planes.

From the first of May, details will be worked out of a joint fund consisting of the revenues from the two new flights.

According to its agreement with Alia, Air France will run two weekly flights between Paris and Amman via Beirut.

CAPUCCI SENDS KING HUSSEIN CONDOLENCES

AMMAN (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein has received a message of condolence on the death of Queen Alya from the Greek Catholic Bishop Hilarion Capucci. Bishop Capucci's message was sent from the Israeli Ramleh prison where he is on a 12-year sentence.

Chamber of Commerce team leaves for India

AMMAN (R). — A delegation representing the Jordanian Chambers of Commerce left here Sunday for New Delhi on an 11-day visit to India.

The official Jordan News Agency said the delegation, led by Mr. Zuhair Asfour, would conclude an agreement to further trade exchange between Jordan and India.

The delegation will also visit Taiwan, South Korea and Thailand after its Indian visit, the agency added.

KING VISITS AIR H.Q.

AMMAN (JNA). — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday paid a visit to the headquarters of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, where he was briefed about the force's activities.

King Hussein then visited the Prince Hassan air base, where he presided over a ceremony held to mark the eighth anniversary of the founding of the air base. He watched a brief air display.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	571.0	577.0
U.S. dollar	331.0	333.0
German mark	139.4	139.8
French franc	66.7	67.0
Swiss franc	130.9	131.3
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.4	37.6
Saudi riyal	93.8	94.0
Lebanese pound	109.3	110.0
Syrian pound	81.6	81.9
Iraqi dinar	943.0	945.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,147	1,152
Egyptian pound	463.0	470.0
Libyan dinar	810.0	825.0

What's Going On

A film entitled "Trotta".

8:00 p.m., at the Goethe Institute, Jabel Amman.

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Population seminar opens four-day meet

AMMAN (JNA). — Labour Minister Issam Ajlouni opened a seminar on population, employment and development at Al Hussein Youth City Monday.

The four-day seminar will discuss the effect of social and demographic changes on economic development and work out population policies for the realisation of development goals.

Mr. Ajlouni stated in his opening speech that manpower in developing countries forms the backbone of development and speedy economic and social progress.

Bearing that in mind, the Jordanian government is trying to solve its demographic problems by establishing a national committee, with all sectors included, to conduct studies and research on the subject.

Mr. Ajlouni pointed out that Jordan faced a number of labour and population problems due to Israeli aggression in 1948 and 1967. As a result, the government established the Ministry of Labour in 1976 to handle and find solutions to labour problems. The ministry, in its turn, initiated a number of projects dealing with these problems. It has established a vocational training organisation, the Women's Department and employment offices, and worked to spread labour education all over the kingdom.

The minister called for greater regional co-operation in information exchange on labour, development and population; and for greater co-ordination in labour and population policies and in strengthening social and economic co-operation, since the Arab states share almost the same labour, demographic and development problems.

The minister concluded thanking the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the United Nations Economic Committee for Western Asia for their

support of Arab regional co-operation.

ILO representative Dr. Henry Azzam said that this seminar aims to explain the influence of employment and demographic factors on economic and social development.

He said that the ILO has called for the adoption of a new development policy, which not only considers economic progress as the basic aim, but also the provision of man's needs, work opportunities and justice in income distribution.

The four-day seminar will discuss nine working papers submitted by participants from Jordan, Syria, Iraq, the ILO, USAID, the International Development Fund and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

DEC. '76 EXPORTS UP 36% ; IMPORTS INCREASE 75%

AMMAN (JNA). — Jordan's exports last December rose 36 per cent in comparison with December 1975. Imports shot up even further with a 75 per cent increase over the same period.

Sources at the Department of Statistics said the value of Jordan's exports in December 1976 amounted to JD 5,622,000 against JD 4,148,000 in 1975. The value of imports amounted to JD 42,198,000 against JD 24,130,000 a year before.

Main exports were raw phosphate, vegetables, fruit, medicine, cigarettes, marble, plastic utensils, silk and cotton fabrics, grains, iron bars, timber and crude petroleum.

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SAUDIA CONFERENCE HELD IN AMMAN

A conference was held in Amman between March 30 and April 2nd, 1977, to outline the objectives and schedule of the Saudia (Saudi Arabian Airline) advertising campaign for 1977 in Jordan, Syria and Iraq. The conference was attended by the Saudia district managers in the three above-mentioned countries; Mr. Omar Sharif, Regional Manager for the Middle East; Mr. Mohammad Al Fawzan, Manager of System Advertising and Sales Promotion; representatives from Gordon Procter and Partners, advertising consultants for Saudia; and the directors of Khalifeh Publicity Agency, Saudia advertising agents in Jordan, Syria, and Iraq.

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Bangladesh workers get less than subsistence wages in food for work plan

Three thousand labourers are toiling for many hours a day clearing silt from a canal in Bangladesh. They are paid not in money but in wheat -- six pounds for every 70 cubic ft. they move -- donated by other countries through the World Food Programme. This project is one of some 600 or so being operated by this Third World nation to bring employment to some of its 9 million unemployed.

DACCA, (Gemin) — Near the town of Kushtia, Bangladesh, three thousand labourers are sweating from six a.m. to five p.m. every day to excavate earth from the side of a canal.

One hesitates to compare them to ants, but there is no doubt that the sight of these long lines of workmen, carrying the earth in baskets on their heads as they troop over the brow of the hill, deposit their loads and then return, is methodical and impressive.

Instead of receiving wages, the labourers are paid in wheat, at the rate of 6 pounds for every 70 cubic feet of earth they move. The food comes from abroad as aid and is then dispensed by the World Food Programme and the Bangladesh government through 626 projects similar to this Kushtia drainage scheme.

Food for Work began in Bangladesh in Jan. 1975, when the government found itself feeding roughly 4 million people who had been forced to flee the 1974 floods. The food aid was still coming in, and it was being distributed at 5,600 gruel kitchens. So the government decided to put it to some constructive use.

In Bangladesh (population 81 million) 9 million people are thought to be unemployed. After the winter rice crop is harvested in October/November, the figure rises to around 15 million. One activity, it was considered, which could not only employ some of these millions, but also have directly beneficial effect upon the country's development, would be in improving the system of drainage. Its canals could be freed from silt, it would have, the effect not only of improving irrigation during the dry months, but also of quickening up the effluence of flood water during monsoons -- when 70 per cent of the country is under water.

The money to pay the labourers was not available. So the government turned to Food for Work projects.

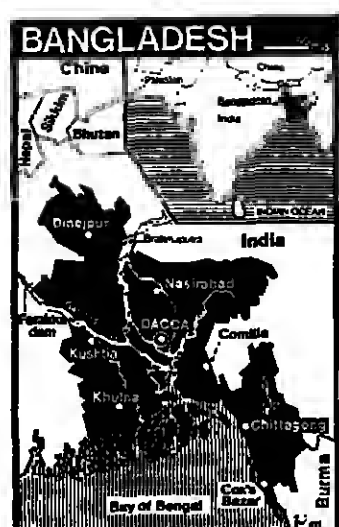
The 3,000 labourers near Kushtia are currently widening and removing silt from a 4,200 ft. canal between the river Ganges and a 46 mile long irrigation canal which branches out through an area of 50 square miles.

No one doubts the importance of such work. The only question is: What is it costing, not only the government, but the thousands of labourers employed on it?

I talked to one of the labourers, who was chosen for me at random by a senior project officer. Rahim is 25 and lives with his wife and 4 year old child in the province of Tangail on the other side of the country.

He arrived at the project last Dec. 5. He told me through the interpreter he had been working on the harvests as an agricultural labourer for a wage of 5 taka a day (roughly 20 pence) and one, sometimes two, meals a day. He was persuaded to leave Tangail by a man named Zulmad who paid the one-way railway fare for Rahim and "300 others". The fare came to 16 taka (64 pence). According to Rahim, Zulmad promised him that he would receive "more money than he was getting on the harvests."

The Kushtia irrigation project was due to run from last Nov. 22 to March 31 1977. But Rahim had had enough. Apart from anything else he had yet to receive any food. So in two weeks time, he told me, he would be heading back to Tangail, paying his own fare.



Rahim's story throws grave doubts on the principles behind such Food for Work programmes. He was clearly lured from Tangail by someone who led him to expect more than he was actually getting. Food handouts are given twice a week to the labourers after the project authorities are assured that each man has moved his 70 cubic feet of earth.

But Rahim had received no food in five days -- only money at the rate of 4 taka (16 pence) a day. Other labourers chimed in at this point to say that they had received "3 taka 50 paise" (14 pence).

When I referred this to the project authorities, they cautioned me against drawing conclusions from just one man. Despite this, it is clear that the Bangladesh government jumped the gun with the Kushtia project. The World Food Programme, says director Trevor Page in Dacca, insists that projects do not begin until after the harvests are priority sector.

But the Bangladesh government, and specifically its water department (WABDA) which oversees 40 per cent of all FFW projects, was chafing at the bit to get the work started. WABDA feels under pressure because of the Indian decision to divert 40,000 cubic feet per second from the river Ganges by way of the Farakka dam.

"The level of the river here is three feet below what it is normally," claimed Abul Hashem Mia in charge of the Kushtia project. "This had a disastrous effect during the dry months of March to June. Many small farmers have stopped using high-yield seeds, because they need water like anything."

It was not possible to corroborate this, and in fact there have been three bumper crops in a row, but most experts in Bangladesh agree that the Farakka decision has had a serious effect upon Bangladesh's agriculture.

WABDA's impatience has not made life easier for labourers like Rahim. Last year, concedes Trevor Page, there were many cases reported of labourers not receiving food, and (even worse) of being paid from a shipment of 150,000 tons of immature frost-bitten wheat in the middle of 1975. In an effort to prevent this recurring, WFP is this year holding 19 workshops in the districts. It also employs 4 people full-time as watchdogs.

The case of Rahim also seems to point to a real flaw in the way FFW labour is recruited. The Kushtia project had been allotted just over 4 million pounds (weight) of wheat wages, a strict timetable, and a specific amount of earth to be moved, precisely because so much aid in Bangladesh has gone astray in the last five years.

"We are under more pressure than ever from donors to see that the food aid is properly used," says Page.

At the end of December, ten days after it began, the project was still 2000 labourers short. It relies for recruitment upon the chairman of the local union council -- the equivalent of a mayor in the West and an immensely powerful figure in rural Bangladesh.

But the case of Rahim makes it clear that the man called Zulmad had been employed to find labour wherever he could, presumably for a commission.

Equally disturbing was the fact that several labourers I spoke to had sold some, if not all of their wheat to buy rice, which they prefer to eat, as well as essentials like cooking oil and salt. This means that their ration really is the equivalent of a wage, but one that is commensurate not with need or the cost of living, as wages should be, but with the market price of wheat. And just after harvest the price of wheat is obviously low.

So who is gaining from such

FFW projects? Hardly the labourers involved. They are the expressed object of everyone's concern. They are living and sleeping in makeshift accommodation, often away from their families, and working from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. (with a two hours break) and not a single day off through 5 months. All this for less than subsistence wages, even though peasants like these, most of them without land, are meant to be the target of the government's development policy.

For the World Food Programme it presents a dilemma. WFP gives food to a government "in good faith" and assumes that the government will distribute it fairly and effectively. WFP imposes what rules it can, but these are clearly limited in effect.

For its part, the Bangladesh government seems to have grasped FFW with all the eagerness a drowning man would grasp a stick. It is desperate to keep people employed and is at its wits end about what to do with the country's massive water problem.

Ideally, however, if the irrigation work is important, labourers should be paid a reasonable wage for it, and the costs of this built into a development plan, rather than be subjected to the uncertainties that Rahim was clearly undergoing.

If water is a priority, then let the government be free to employ its citizens rather than be pressured into FFW projects because the food aid happens to be available. "Half money and half food would be ideal," says Mr. Page. But unfortunately the aid seems likely to keep right on coming in the form of food.

In May last year the international consortium of aid donors to Bangladesh meeting in Paris decided that of the \$108 million aid for Bangladesh, over half of it would be in the food. So FFW is expanding: This year 100,000 tons of food aid -- a seventh of the total -- will be used for FFW wages.

While these decisions are being made, Bangladesh becomes more and more dependent on yet another form of aid. Originally food aid was employed by the British as a way of discovering how many people were in fact suffering from famine. It was called "test relief" and was written into law in 1913. The food was paid, of course, starvation wages.

And so it appears to remain. FFW was meant to be temporary -- hence the low wages. Trevor Page insists that it still is. "We are the employer in the last resort," he says. But in this he differs widely from engineer Mia in charge of the FFW Kushtia project. "Anything is possible with wheat," he said, surveying the thousands of coolies sweating loads of earth. "With wheat we could even start draining village ponds."

Extension of fishing zone to 200 miles is seen as a Cuban effort to get talks under way

WASHINGTON, D.C., (CSM). — Cuba's extension of its fishing zone to 200 miles around the island makes virtually certain that direct Cuba-United States talks will begin soon.

Coming less than 24 hours before the U.S. imposed a similar zone, the Cuban action means that the two nations have overlapping fishing jurisdictions covering some 200,000 square miles.

That overlapping could cause all sorts of problems as the two countries seek to enforce their hegemony over the zones, and some sort of agreement

will have to be worked out in the weeks ahead.

In past negotiations over overlapping jurisdictions, negotiators generally have split such disputed areas, giving the claimants portions of the waterway in question.

The U.S. already has started talks with Canada, and is due to begin working out details of an accord with Mexico -- the other two countries with which the U.S. faces overlapping jurisdiction.

Cuban President Fidel Castro opened the door to talks on the subject in January by suggesting that this might well be the first issue for discussion when Cuba and the U.S. get around to resolving their many disputes.

In fact, the Castro decision Feb. 28 to impose Cuba's own 200-mile jurisdiction is seen in diplomatic circles as an effort by the Cuban leader to get those talks underway.

Washington had not specifically responded to the original Castro suggestion.

In announcing Cuba's imposition of a 200-mile fishing zone, Havana radio said the Caribbean island is prepared to enter into agreements with all countries affected by the



Some of the three thousand labourers engaged on the Kushtia, Bangladesh, Food for Work project.

Men usually have the final say

He decides which television programme will be switched on; HE is responsible for all important contracts; and HE usually decides whether his wife shall go out to work or not. While most married couples in the Federal Republic of Germany no longer acknowledge the patriarchal family principle whereby the husband rules and the wife is subservient as a valid formula, things look different in actual day-to-day life. This has been discovered by the Institute for Applied Social Science (INFAS) in Bonn-Bad Godesberg in a study carried out on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Youth, Family and Health.

BONN, (INP). — Two-thirds of all men and women say they take joint decisions in both small and big matters such as purchases, child education and how household money should be spent. The marriage partners also see no-sided dictate in such questions as the allotment of various duties which they say is done on a sharing basis. But the traditional roles shine through behind this show of equality -- the wife remains responsible for internal family matters

while the husband's domain lies in the outside world.

If, for example, certain responsibilities are apportioned to one marriage partner or the other, then it's the man who gets those of long-term significance while the woman is left to look after smaller, everyday problems. In the case of conclusion of contracts, the husband alone decides in 41 per cent of all marriages, the wife in only 4 per cent. When it comes to major purchases, it's the husband who takes the decision in 22 per cent of cases while the wife is virtually never left alone with the

decision (1 per cent). Twenty-five per cent of husbands and only 9 per cent of women rule over the evening T.V. programme. However, one particularly important field of decision-making is left with the wife -- children's education. Some 20 per cent of women and only 4 per cent of men control this domain. Specific sex differentiation is, particularly in evidence in the distribution of duties and roles. Some 70 per cent of all married women and 69 per cent of married men consider it one of the woman's main duties to look after the family. Thirty-seven per cent of married men and 29 per cent of their female counterparts are even of the belief that the woman is naturally predestined for household and family and should therefore keep away from gainful employment and public life.

On the other hand, the husband's main duty is considered to be to earn the family's keep. And this breadwinner role is not seen as a burden, but as a privilege. The fact that the man goes out to work on a continuous basis as the main breadwinner gives greater weight to his will. The wife's activities within and outside the family circle are subordinate to the husband's occupational circumstances. While the man's job and all that goes with it are his own affair, the woman's gainful employment is the concern of both marriage partners. Some 43 per cent of all married men are against allowing their wives to go out to work and, where this is accepted, her occupation is regarded as a complementary activity which carries less weight than that of the husband when it comes to planning family life.

This attitude to the working wife still persists despite the fact that general views on the subject have moved visibly in a positive direction. As recently as 1964, only 25 per cent of men and 28 per cent of women considered it "normal" for wives to go out to work. In each case, more than two-thirds of the persons questioned were generally opposed to the working wife, favouring her restriction to domestic and family duties. Today, 65 per cent of married women and 48 per cent of their partners think it proper that married women should take part in working and public life.

The mother-role of the wife is the pendant to the breadwinner-role of the husband. Hitherto, partners in marriage have considered it quite normal that primarily the woman and secondarily the man should be concerned with the children. Some 37 per cent of the husbands opposed to allowing their wives to take employment say they fear the children would suffer while 10 per cent think family life would be affected (incidentally, almost the same number of wives as husbands are opposed to mothers going out to work). The authors of the study observe: "The unchallenged bond between the woman and the education and welfare of children and breadwinner status of the man are fundamental obstacles to equal participation of women in working and public life. They are barriers which appear insuperable for the foreseeable future. But this is not the only point of resistance. Male attitudes show that traditional roles and a large measure of personal convenience hamper female activities outside the household. Indeed, 24 per cent of married men say a woman's place is in the home and not at work."

And 17 per cent say the burden on their wives would be too great without, however, saying how they themselves could help to alleviate it."

Even in marriages where both partners go out to work the dominance of the husband is to be seen when it comes to important decisions and "external affairs". A woman's employed status effects no basic changes in apportioning of roles, while it does affect the husband's attitude to the sharing of household and family duties. Two-thirds of all husbands of working women are willing to help around the house compared to only one third in the case of husband who are the sole breadwinners in the family. But it is far from true to say that working women's lot is so greatly eased by their husbands that the must perform only half of the household and family duties. Although, in many cases, women must go out to work because the money is needed -- whereby the husband profits from this -- their menfolk rarely see a need to take a correspondingly large share in domestic duties (12 per cent of the males refuse in general to do housework even if the wives are employed).

The double burden on working women manifests itself very clearly in the leisure-time attitudes of the married couple. While the husband makes use of his free time for amusement and relaxation, the wife is busy trying to catch up with her domestic chores. However, the husbands of working women are more amenable to the problems and wishes of their wives and are therefore more prepared to harmonise their professional situation with the professional activities of their spouses. "To this extent, the employed status of the woman offers greater chances for more partner-like attitudes. But apparently does little to alter the basic pattern of roles between the partners", says the study.

The experts note furthermore that male dominance in all the more in evidence where the husband has enjoyed superior education to that of the wife. Correspondingly, male influence on decision increases with her standard education. Married couples with equal education standards are generally more partners, a though the stronger position of the husband is also evident in such relationships, too. Wife with better education her husband may have greater freedom of decision, but she also carries a heavier burden of child education. The result is such women is that they are bound more closely to family responsibilities and have less scope for extra-domestic activities.

Despite all existing obstacles women are much more inclined than men towards seeing changes in existing male and female roles. While all men take a positive view of their own role, most husbands are far more inclined to insist on the preservation of existing patterns. Women, on the other hand, have proved through their much greater flexibility that they are willing to take no far more professional and public tasks than men are prepared to take on domestic and family duties. The authors of the study thus conclude: "In order to improve opportunities for women, it's not enough to motivate and activate. It is necessary to draw more attention to the role of the man and to re-define it to the same extent."

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GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN REPRESENTED BY THE KING HUSSEIN MEDICAL CENTRE

Sealed proposals are invited for the purchase, fabrication, delivery, installation, testing and training of hospital equipment, furnishings and supplies for the Farah Royal Jordanian Rehabilitation Centre, King Hussein Medical Centre, Amman, Jordan and will be received until 10:00 a.m. prevailing local time in Amman, Jordan on 11 July, 1977 at the Directorate of Medical Services, Chairman of the Farah Tender Committee, King Hussein Medical Centre, Amman, Jordan.

The work is subdivided into five sections. Bidders are invited to submit sealed proposals for any or all sections of the work.

Bidding documents, two volumes of specifications and two sets of drawings may be obtained from the office of the Military Work, General Headquarters, Jordan Armed Forces, Amman, Jordan, telex no. 9251200 upon receipt of JD 50 or from Heery International Ltd./ ARABTECH, 880 West Peachtree Street, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30308, U.S.A., telex no. 542165 upon receipt of \$150 U.S. Volume I only (furnishings) and accompanying drawings may be obtained for JD 20 or \$90 U.S.

Contract documents may also be examined in the office of the Military Works, Amman, Jordan and the office of the Architect/Engineer, Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids. The latest date for bidders to obtain documents is April 30, 1977.

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Applications are invited from suitably qualified nurses for posts as clinical teachers within the faculty of nursing.

Successful applicants will be engaged in bedside instruction of the students following the Bachelor of Science programme in Nursing at the University of Jordan.

Applications should be written in English with full curriculum vitae and the names of two persons for reference and forwarded to Miss Mary Whitworth, Principal Tutor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Jordan.

USED CAR REQUIRED

Used Mercedes Benz 200, any model from 1972 to 1975 (duty free) required. If any diplomat wishes to sell, please contact M. Hanif Khan of United Nations.

Call office 24313-15, residence 64055.

10 Iraqis receive death sentences

BAGHDAD, April 4 (R). — Ten Iraqis have been sentenced to death by a special court in Kirkuk for planning assassinations in the province of Sulaymaniyah, northern Iraq, the Iraq News Agency reported.

According to the agency, those convicted included three army deserters. They were described as "a group of saboteurs who tried to undermine security and stability in the north, and assassinate several officials and people."

One of their targets was the former governor of Sulaymaniyah, Mr. Mohammed Amin, who escaped an assassination attempt, the agency said.

It did not say when the attempt took place, when the "saboteurs" were arrested or when they were tried.

The accused, including a woman, Raana Ahmed Fathallah, who was acquitted and re-

leased, were all Kurds, according to an Iraqi News Agency official contacted by telephone.

On Feb. 23 a special court in Baghdad sentenced eight people to death and 15 to life imprisonment for their role in troubles in the holy Moslem Shiite towns of Kerbala and Najaf, south of Baghdad.

The agency said that Khastro Abdullah Hama Saleh, an army deserter had confessed that he made an abortive attempt on the life of the former governor and was a main element in a plan to kill the director of education in the province. The plan was not carried out, the agency added.

Saleh had also confessed that he was carrying a hand grenade when he made the attempt on the governor. He intended to throw it when people gathered to see what had happened to Mr. Amin, the agency said.

Israeli T.V. reports Dayan withdraws threat to quit Labour Party

TEL AVIV, April 4, (R). — Former Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan has withdrawn a threat to quit the ruling Labour Party following talks yesterday with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli Television reported.

Mr. Dayan had threatened to leave the party unless it formally promised to hold new elections before implementing any agreements reached with the Arabs on an Israeli pull-out from the parts of the occupied West Bank.

Mr. Rabin's aides said the prime minister had told Mr. Dayan he had no objection in principle to this.

The premier added that he saw no point in making an issue of the matter at present, but gave Mr. Dayan a letter clarifying the issue which ap-

peared to satisfy the former minister, the aides said.

Israeli Television also said that Mr. Dayan had decided to allow his name to be included on the party's list of candidates in the parliamentary elections next month.

The former minister was not available for comment.

Parliamentary observers say that the former defence minister no longer commands a large following, but his defection would be a severe blow to the traditional major party in Israel, already buffeted by the establishment of the new Democratic Movement for Change (DMC) formed by Prof. Yadin, a noted archaeologist and former chief of staff.

The new party is expected to attract many former Labour supporters.



ARABIAN PRESENT — Mrs. Jihan Sadat, wife of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, presents a pony to an orphanage in Bonn Friday. Mrs. Sadat is accompanying her husband in a tour that took them to Paris and the United States. (AP wirephoto).

Makarios suffers mild heart attack

NICOSIA, April 4 (R). — Archbishop Makarios, President of Cyprus, suffered a mild heart attack yesterday, a government statement said today.

The president, who is 63, is now confined to his bed but is in good spirits and keeping in close touch with state affairs, the statement said.

The statement described the attack as "a mild coronary episode."

The government said the archbishop was maintaining particularly close touch with the inter-communal talks in Vienna between Greek and Turkish-Cypriot representatives.

The bearded archbishop led Cyprus to independence in 1960 and became its first president.

Brushes with death, as well as exile and a coup against him, have all failed to remove his dominating presence from the explosive politics of Cyprus.

His blackest hour came July, 1974, when he was overthrown by the Greek-backed Cyprus National Guard and was almost killed in an attack on his presidential palace.

Forced to flee the country, he watched from exile as the Turks invaded Cyprus and the island was racked by bitter fighting.

But less than five months later he was back, to be welcomed by his Greek-Cypriot supporters.

Kuwait, USSR sign arms sale contract

KUWAIT, April 4 (R). — Kuwait has signed a contract with the Soviet Union for sophisticated military equipment, Defence and Interior Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah was quoted as saying here yesterday.

Sheikh Saad told the newspaper Al Rai and Al Aam the deal was concluded during a recent visit to Kuwait by a Soviet military delegation.

Last Wednesday, the weekly newspaper Al Hadaf had said Kuwait would shortly sign an agreement for Soviet-made weapons, including Sam-7 anti-aircraft missiles.

Sheikh Saad said in today's Al Rai Al Aam interview Kuwait was diversifying its weapon sources but was still co-operating with its traditional suppliers in Europe and the United States.

Kuwait is carrying out an 800 million dinars (£1.6 billion) five-year plan to expand and modernise its armed forces.

A government spokesman, commenting today on the archbishop's illness, said his life was not in danger.

"A mild attack of this kind is obviously a warning to slow down," the spokesman said.

"But I expect the archbishop will gradually return to something very like his normal life."

President Makarios was taken ill after officiating at mass in Nicosia yesterday, the government said.

He was examined by cardiac specialists and his personal physician, Dr. Vassos Lyssartides, who leads the Greek-Cypriot Socialist Party.

But news of the illness did not begin to leak out until this morning.

The government spokesman said Archbishop Makarios was sitting up in bed and giving instructions to the Greek-Cypriot negotiating team at Vienna where the inter-communal talks are reported to be in danger of becoming bogged down.

With King Khaled hospitalised there London becomes the real capital of Saudi Arabia

LONDON, April 4 (AFP). — For six weeks, London has been the real capital of Saudi Arabia. From the fifth floor of the Wellington Hospital here, a stone's throw from Regent Park's new grand mosque, King Khaled of Saudi Arabia, while undergoing a delicate hip operation has continued to rule his six million subjects in Saudi Arabia through direct telephone and telex links.

Hospitalised on Feb. 11 and having two operations in the following weeks, the monarch who has just left hospital is in "excellent form" according to Saudi Arabia's Ambassador Sheikh Faisal Al Hegail.

Observers who saw him in hospital suggest that he might relinquish some of his powers because of his state of health. They reported that this leader of the world's major oil exporting country was emaciated, that he appeared to be lost in an unceasing trance while audiences of 30 visitors gathered round his sickbed.

Rumours about the king's state of health were fed regularly by his succession of visitors. They included Saudi Arabian ministers flown in discreetly from Riyadh, King Hussein of Jordan, the Emirs of Kuwait and Bahrain, Sheikh Sabab As Saleem As Sabab and Sheikh Issa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa, brother of the King of Morocco, and on Thursday Saudi government leader

Castro starts visit to the Soviet Union

MOSCOW, April 4 (R). — Cuban President Fidel Castro arrived in Moscow today for talks with Soviet leaders likely to centre on the results of his recently-completed tour of Africa.

U.S. experts to examine tapes of Tenerife crash

WASHINGTON, April 4 (R). — Vital information which may pinpoint the cause of the world's worst air crash will be sifted this week by a small team of expert technicians here.

Cockpit tapes and flight data records from the KLM and Pan American jumbo jets which collided at Tenerife airport will be delivered tomorrow to the National Transportation Safety Board.

In an eight-floor laboratory, experts will begin at once to try to piece together a record of the holocaust, in which more than 570 passengers and crew died last Sunday.

Each aircraft had cockpit voice recorder as well as a flight recorder containing computerised data.

This should disclose such details as speed, compass bearings, wing loading, control movements and throttle speed.

All this will provide a yard-square computer print-out covered with figures which will then be decoded by the safety board staff.

Together with the safety board technicians, colleagues who know the pilots well will identify their voices. Static and extraneous cockpit sounds have been screened from the cockpit tapes.

PODGORNY RETURNS TO MOSCOW

MOSCOW, April 4 (R). — Soviet President Nikolai Podgorniy arrived back in Moscow today after a two-week tour of four African countries.

Mr. Podgorniy visited Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique and Somalia and also had talks with leaders of guerrilla groups in the south of the continent.

The tour — the first by a senior leader in Southern Africa — was designed to reinforce ties with black Africa's "front-line states."

In Maputo, Mr. Podgorniy signed a treaty on friendship and cooperation between the Soviet Union and Mozambique.

ECONOMIC AND BUSINESS NEWS

Kaissouni: Egypt will solve economic problems in 4 years

ABU DHABI, April 4, (R). — Egyptian Deputy Premier Abdul Moneim Kaissouni, on a tour of Gulf financial backers, said that Egypt expected to solve its acute economic problems within four years.

Dr. Kaissouni, Deputy Premier for Financial and Economic Affairs, told a press conference last night Egypt's economic difficulties were caused by huge short-term debts, including \$4 billion to the Soviet Union.

Egypt would put forward a plan to redirect the economy and increase the annual growth rate to 12 per cent at a meeting in Paris next month of an international group supporting the Egyptian economy, Dr. Kaissouni said.

The deputy premier said he regretted that no agreement had been reached on rescheduling Egypt's weapon purchase debts to the Soviet Union. But he hoped agreement would be achieved shortly.

The Egyptian leader said his current tour of the Gulf states was not aimed at getting increased aid from the Gulf fund which was already committed to provide \$1.5 billion of aid to Egypt.

Dr. Kaissouni, who had talks here yesterday with officials of the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development, the state's foreign aid agency, said that Egypt welcomed, however, increased bilateral aid from the states concerned.

Abu Dhabi forms new oil co.

ABU DHABI, April 4 (R). — The Government of Abu Dhabi, which took 60 per cent ownership of its rich offshore oil fields in 1974, has formed a new state-controlled company to operate the wells. The fields produce 600,000 barrels of oil a day.

A British-French-Japanese consortium, which retains a minority share in the fields and has been running them since 1974, will also have a stake in the operations company founded last night.

The Abu Dhabi government, one of the seven United Arab Emirates, owns 60 per cent of the new operations firm.

The state-owned Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) will own 60 per cent of the new operating company and nominate two members to its five-member board of directors, including the chief executive.

Each of the three foreign partners of Abu Dhabi Marine Areas (ADMA) will name one member to the board. They are British Petroleum (14 2/3 per cent), Compagnie Francaise des Petroles (13 3/4 per cent) and a group of Japanese companies operating under the name GE-DCO (12 per cent).

ADMA will hand over all operations and documents to the new company which will be a service company operating on behalf of the partners with no ownership rights of its own, it was officially announced here.

The headquarters of the new company will be Abu Dhabi, officials said.

Dispute over oil prices postpones pumping Iraqi oil through Turkey

NICOSIA, April 4 (AFP). — A dispute over the price of oil has forced postponement of plans to begin pumping crude from northern Iraq to a Mediterranean port in Turkey, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported today.

The influential newsletter said plans to bring into service a pipeline from the Kirkuk oil fields to the port of Doryol had been postponed indefinitely following a dispute over the price to Turkey of the crude it takes for domestic consumption. The pipeline was due to come on stream this month.

MEES said foreign purchasing agents had apparently been informed that deliveries would be delayed until an agreement was reached with Ankara, which has an option to buy 40 per cent of the crude supplied through the pipeline in 1977.

It said Iraq was insisting that Turkey pay the rate posted by 11 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) including Iraq which decided to boost oil prices by 10 per cent as from Jan. 1 this year, or about \$13.50 a barrel. But Turkey, it said, was pushing for a considerably lower price.

Turkey was scheduled to take most of the crude

pumped during the first few months, somewhere between 120,000 and 150,000 barrels a day. Initial capacity of the Kirkuk-Doryol pipeline is 500,000 barrels daily.

The second Mediterranean outlet for Iraqi crude, a 1,400-mile pipeline through Syria and Lebanon, was closed down a year ago in the wake of a dispute between Iraq and Syria over transport fees.

Since then, Iraq has directed its crude from Kirkuk to its own port, Basra, on the Gulf,

Iraq's sole outlet to the sea. MEES said that Turkey appeared to be rounding out the Gulf countries on the possible purchase on favourable terms of its crude.

It noted that Turkish Foreign Minister Sabri Caglayangil recently made a tour of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Abu Dhabi, announcing that Turkey was ready to buy oil from any country prepared to sell. Saudi Arabia is one of the two OPEC countries which rejected the 10-per cent rise.

Aden to take over BP oil refinery

ADEN, April 4, (R). — The South Yemen government is to take over the British Petroleum (BP) oil refinery in Aden on May 1 under an agreement signed here today.

BP will continue to provide managerial, technical and marketing services to the refinery, officials said.

The refinery, completed in 1954 when Aden was still a British colony, has been running well under its full capacity of 160,000 barrels a day since the closure of the Suez Canal in 1957, the same year which saw the end of British

rule. The reopening of the canal two years ago has not brought a return to full production.

The terms of the takeover agreement were not immediately available.

The official Aden News Agency reported today that Foreign Minister Mohammed Saleh Mutea, who returned here last night from a short visit to Saudi Arabia, had discussed the supply of Saudi crude oil for the Aden refinery.

The agency said a high-level Saudi delegation was expected to visit Aden shortly.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

KUWAIT, April 4 (AFP). — The ministerial council of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAP-EC) will meet May 3 in Cairo, Kuwaiti Minister of State Abdul Aziz Hussein announced over the weekend.

GENEVA, April 4 (AFP). — The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe today said it is considering plans to build a super-highway across 10 central European nations between the Baltic and the Middle East by 1990.

COPENHAGEN, April 4 (AFP). — The cost to Denmark of 58 American F-16 fighters will be 2,640 million crowns (over \$450 million), 10 per cent higher than first estimated, it was announced today. Defence Minister Oral Moller also said that Denmark would recover only 40 per cent of the purchase price through parts manufacture, instead of 58 per cent as agreed.

CAIRO, April 4 (AFP). — The latest official figure for the population of Egypt is 38,228,180, according to census figures published here today. The census was taken last November, the figure includes 1,452,000 Egyptians living abroad and 147,000 in Sinai. The population of Cairo is put at 5,084,463 and of Alexandria, 2,318,655. Population growth between May 1966 and November 1976 was 2.31 per cent, an increase of 8,152,322 persons.

RIYADH, April 4 (R). — The French construction company Bouygues, was today awarded a 766-million riyal (about £130 million) contract to implement the first stage of a housing programme in Jeddah, it was announced here. The official Saudi Press Agency said the Minister of Public Works and Housing, Prince Mu'ib Ibn Abdul Aziz, signed the contract which provides for building 12 blocks of 18-storey flats in the area. Prince Mu'ib signed another contract for 16 million riyals (about £2.7 million) with the West German consultancy firm Dorsch, to supervise the construction work, the agency said.

KUWAIT, April 4 (R). — Negotiations between the Kuwait Oil Ministry and 22 international firms competing to buy Kuwait's natural gas output ended here last night. Officials said today firms from the United States, Europe and Japan were among the 22 companies negotiating to buy annually five million tons of liquefied gas.

TOKYO, April 4 (R). — Mr. Johannes Witteveen, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), today briefed a Japanese government official on plans to create additional lending resources to help non-oil producing developing countries. Government officials here said the IMF hoped to secure big contributions for the new facility from the United States, Saudi Arabia, West Germany, Japan and Kuwait.

WALL STREET REPORT

Prices registered Monday one of the broadest declines of the year on the New York stock exchange, where the industrial average lost nearly 12 points, falling back to its lowest level since January 1976.

The decline was triggered by mounting worries about inflation, as a survey from the National Association of Purchasing Management showed an upsurge in prices of many industrial raw materials during March.

Declines outnumbered advances at the close by a wide 893 to 438 margin.

Auto shares were among the hardest hit: Ford lost 1 7/8 at 53 3/8, chemicals were also low and Dupont lost 3 points at 123.5.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 915.56, a loss of 11.80 points; Transp at 223.46, a loss of 0.15; utilities at 107.20, a gain of 0.32. 16,250,000 shares changed hands, of which 3,690,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

The market continued to lose ground Monday at the start of the second leg of the pre-Easter trading account following the continuation of the industrial unrest and trade unions' opposition to the new pay policy.

Gold dipped one point at the start of business and barely stirred subsequently despite the record gold and currency reserves in March. Leading industrialists reflected a similar pattern. Tube Investments, ICI, Fisons and Glaxo, in front of Monday's results, fell between 4p and 6p.

At 15:00 the F.T. Index was down 6.9 at 405.6, bringing the fall over the last three trading days to over 21 pt. Insurances, still uneasy about claims arising from the Tenerife Jumbo jet disaster, had losses near double-figures. Banks, too, were dull, although Hong Kong Shanghai managed to move up against the trend.

Gold was an exception, firming up with the bullion price in front of the International Monetary Fund's (I.M.F.) next gold sale on Wednesday. De Beers, in contrast, eased as did leading Australians.

Oils made a bright start, but quickly faded. Tobaccos were mostly lower where changed. Plantations had a few pence lower, although the latest London auction prices showed some recovery. On the Japanese list, Canon was marked higher but Honda was lower.

Price of gold closed in London Monday at \$150.30/oz.



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